

# These Days . . . . .

By George Sokolsky

## The Nationalist Upsurge

WHILE WE in the United States, have tended to avoid nationalism as though it were a sin, in most other countries

the post-war era has been marked by an intensified nationalism. This is particularly true among the weaker nations of Asia and Africa, which have emerged as independent

nations and which are fighting against what they call colonialism. The Bandung Conference was attended by 29 such nations and they passed pronationalist, anticolonial resolutions.



Sokolsky

At Geneva, the four gentlemen at the summit are faced by this trend toward intensified nationalism. President Eisenhower will have to consider the fact that nearly all of the newly emerged nationalist states prefer to be neutral as between the United States and Soviet Russia for two reasons:

1. Alliance with one of these powers is an affront to the other and may lead to perilous results;
2. Each of the new nationalist states hopes to gain comparative strength by the weakening of both of the great powers.

A YEAR AGO, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, when he was Under Secretary of State, said:

"Communism is a movement to bring all of the people in the world under one all-powerful central authority, and I define nationalism as the passionate desire of people to live their own lives in their own way. The two are incompatible, it seems to me."

This, it seems to me, is a correct statement. Unfortunately, the incompatibility is not as evident as it should be because it is not always recognized that the Russians operate through two branches: the Marxist church, which gives the impression of idealism; Russian imperialism, which is a secular effort to push the boundaries of the Soviet universal state outward.

Sir Anthony Eden, at Geneva, faces the fact that the most important of the few nationalist countries were British colonies and that some of them are still loosely and

British system through the commonwealth of nations.

THE FRENCH are plagued by nationalism in all former and present French colonies and do not know what to do about it. France was the only colonial empire that gave some measure of equality to the colonies in the sense that colonials sat in the French Chamber of Deputies. But that has not proved to be sufficient to keep these peoples loyal to France.

The Russians face this problem, too. Because of their censorship, news on this subject is scant. But by the abolition of certain republics in the Soviet Union, it was made clear that there is some kind of a nationalist movement

within Russia itself. The visit of Khrushchev and Bulganin to Yugoslavia and the apology to Tito for the errors of Stalin (they were blamed on Beria) were an acknowledgment of communistic nationalism. When Dimitrov of Bulgaria and Pauker of Romania favored this concept, they encountered Kremlin opposition.

This changed attitude can only be the result of a recognition by the Kremlin of the upsurge of nationalism not only in Russia but in the entire Soviet universal state.

The Big Four in Geneva cannot ignore this state of mind among all peoples, except the Americans, who have not yet caught the nationalistic tone of the moment.

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